

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1. (Original) A removable vascular filter system comprising:
an elongate wire having distal and proximal ends;
a filter membrane having a distal portion and a proximal free end portion, wherein said distal portion is pivotably attached to the elongate wire near said distal end of the elongate wire and wherein the proximal free end portion is substantially parallel to the elongate wire in its collapsed state and wherein said free end portion has a generally scalloped shape; and
deploying means for causing the filter to assume a position substantially normal to the longitudinal axis of the elongate wire;
2. (Currently Amended) The vascular filter system of claim 1, wherein ~~whereby~~ the deploying means comprises a control mechanism operable from the proximal end of the elongate wire and operatively connected to the filter membrane.
3. (Original) The vascular filter system of claim 1, wherein the filter membrane is comprised of a porous mesh, and the scalloped shape is comprised of rounded sections.

4. (Original) The vascular system of claim 3, wherein the pore size of the porous mesh is about 50-300 microns.

5. (Original) The vascular system of claim 3, wherein the pore size of the porous mesh is about 20-500 microns.

6. (Original) A method for protecting a patient during an endoluminal procedure, comprising the steps of:

providing a filter comprising an elongate wire having distal and proximal ends, and a filter membrane having a distal portion and a proximal free end portion, wherein said distal portion is pivotably attached to the elongate wire near said distal end of the elongate wire and wherein the proximal free end portion is substantially parallel to the elongate wire in its collapsed state and wherein said free end portion has a generally scalloped shape;

advancing the filter to a region of interest within a vessel;

expanding the filter membrane within the region of interest; and

performing an endoluminal procedure at the region of interest, wherein released embolic material is captured by the filter.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the filter membrane is expanded downstream of the region of interest.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the filter further comprises a deploying means to hold the filter membrane in a collapsed condition.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the deploying means is a sleeve.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of expanding the filter further comprises the step of proximally displacing the sleeve from the filter.
11. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the vessel is a carotid artery.
12. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the vessel is a coronary artery.
13. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of performing an endoluminal procedure comprises the step of performing angioplasty.
14. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of performing an endoluminal procedure comprises the step of placing a stent within the region of interest.